

financially interested in some of the biggest selling "patent medicines"; fourth, the druggists and their Association, the National Association of Retail Druggists, commonly known as the "N. A. R. D." In passing we may respectfully call the attention of the W. C. T. U., the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., and the various woman's clubs in the state to these facts and suggest that they begin NOW to plan an active campaign in support of the bill and to counteract the vast influence of the disgraceful elements which will oppose it. And what shall we do? The opposing factor nearest to ourselves is the "N. A. R. D.," and its individual members, the retail druggists. In other states they have shown that their desire to participate in criminal fraud is greater than their sense of professionalism, common honesty or self-respect; will they exhibit a similar attitude in California? Presumably, they will, if uninfluenced. It would therefore seem to be a paramount duty, and one of urgency, that we at once arrange for conferences with the druggists throughout the state—each county taking care of its own territory—and endeavor to come to an understanding on this matter. If an amicable understanding can be reached, so much the better, for fights are unpleasant, to say the least. It would be a comparatively easy matter for the physicians of the state to make themselves absolutely independent of the pharmacists, for it does not require a great deal of capital to equip a purely prescription drug store, and there is hardly a community in the state in which the physicians could not get together, subscribe the necessary capital and operate a co-operative drug store. Whether or not the local members of the N. A. R. D. will have sufficient influence with their organization to induce it to keep "hands off," is a question, for it has been many times intimated that the controlling element in the N. A. R. D. entertains the friendliest of relations with some of the biggest and worst of the fraudulent nostrums. Indeed its publication has several times since *Collier's* exposure, endeavored to bolster up the peruna fraud.

Indeed, it is quite possible that this same N. A. R. D. may do again what it did at the last legislature, and introduce, as a retaliatory measure, a bill emasculating our present law regulating the practice of medicine. It may seem almost incredible that an organization of druggists would be so gratuitously insulting, but the fact is one of record and was even bragged about in their official publication. The easiest way of protecting the people of the state against such outrages is to make sure of the attitude of your prospective representatives before they are nominated, if possible, and certainly before they are elected. A question of political party should have no weight with you as against the protection and safety of the people, who are your professional charge. That they do not know

enough to protect themselves and hence take but little interest in these matters, only makes it the more your duty to protect them from their own ignorance. For these and many other reasons, it should be your duty to take an interest in the political situation in your county and to make sure that every effort is made to send to the legislature men who understand the importance to public health and to the safety of the people, of properly safeguarding them from quacks and ignorant pretenders. They should be educated, too, on the more important facts regarding the "Great American Fraud"—the "patent medicine"—and the "red clause" control of the press. Fortunately, there are a number of country papers in this state that are free from the "patent medicine" yoke. We have noted *The Californian* (Eureka); the *Tulare County Times*, the *Fresno Daily Republican*, the *Ventura Free Press* and the *Pasadena Daily News*. Possibly there are others that have not come to our attention. It may seem a long time from now to next January, but the fight will be on your hands before you know it.

Where is the freedom of the press? Practically every newspaper in this country has been bought by the alcoholic nostrum manufacturers and has signed advertising contracts with them which contain the following clauses:

1st. It is agreed in case any law or laws are enacted, either State or National, harmful to the interests of the (Nostrum Manufacturing Co.), that this contract may be cancelled by them from date of such enactment, and the insertions paid for pro rata with the contract price.

2d. It is agreed that the (Nostrum Manufacturing Co.) may cancel this contract pro rata in case advertisements are published in this paper in which their products are offered, with a view to substitution or other harmful motive; also, in case any matter otherwise detrimental to the (Nostrum Manufacturing Co.'s) interests is permitted to appear in the reading columns or elsewhere in this paper.

(See *Collier's Weekly*, Nov. 4, 1905.)

The "Pure-Food Bill," the eighteen-year-old joke of the "Criminal Senate," has at last passed that august assemblage of official grafters and trust representatives! At the time of writing it is impossible to say whether the bill was emasculated before passage or not, but rumors are that it got through in fair shape. The fight will now be in the House and each and every one of us should write to his representative and demand that this effort to compel the substitution of simple honesty for murderous greed, be adopted.

There are at least as many fraudulent nostrums "worked" upon the medical profession alone as there are of the sort that appeal directly to the laity. From time to time we shall endeavor to follow the work of the A. M. A. and comment on these things. In the meantime, we would suggest that you ask every detail man who succeeds in getting to you and then contributes to

ATTACK OUR LAW.

PURE FOOD.

FRAUDS IN MEDICINES.